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FORMER STATE WORKER SENTENCED TO 70 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that Scott Brandenburg, 33, of Porterville, California, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Oliver Wanger to 70 months in prison and a 10-year term of supervised release. Brandenburg pleaded guilty on January 14, 2008, to possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors. At the time of the offense, Brandenburg was employed by Porterville Developmental Services where he worked as a psychiatric technician for the State of California Department of Developmental Services.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Fresno and Stanislaus County Sheriffs.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Mark J. McKeon, who prosecuted the case, Judge Wanger, in sentencing the defendant, said that the defendant used a computer to possess more than 300 pornographic images of children, some as young as two or three years old, and that some of the pornographic images depicted acts of violence against pre-pubescent children.

The investigation in this case was undertaken as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC). PSC is a United States Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children, and to reduce the number of Internet crimes against children including child pornography trafficking. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office has teamed with state and local agencies and organizations to increase law enforcement presence on the Internet, and to educate the public about safe Internet use, thereby reducing the risk that children might fall prey to online sexual predators. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafechildhood.gov or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

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